

BRIEFLY TOLD

Two and one-half million people of Japan look to the sea for their livelihood.

A radium tube used by a physician was accidentally consigned to the furnace. A radium expert sprinkled zinc sulphide about the cellar and turned out the lights. The watchers saw a glowing patch among the dead ashes in the furnace and found the tube of radium which, by its action, had caused the zinc sulphide to become luminous.

Migrations of halibut and cod will be studied by placing tags on individual fish.

President Harding has been presented with a cowboy hat with a silver band, the gift of Cheyenne, Wyoming.

A prominent woman explorer from England who recently crossed the Sahara Desert deplores the custom of cutting off the hair and the adoption of mannish garb by women. She believes women should be better women—not worse men—and declares she would have worn a Paris gown in the desert if possible.

Several ships controlled by wireless have been commissioned in the British fleet, after experiments lasting nearly three years. They are about the size of large motor launches and the wheel propelling and steering machinery is capable of being controlled by wireless over a long distance.

Among fossils found in the lime pits at Torrance, California, was a tooth of some prehistoric fish so large as to indicate its owner's size was larger than any animal now living. With one-third of the tooth missing the remainder weighs nearly two pounds, is five inches long, four inches across the base and nearly two inches thick.

The star shell may take the place of the searchlight in searching out enemy craft if experiments now being conducted by the Navy Department meet with success. Flashless powder used in propelling the shells from the guns and the flash of the shells themselves as they explode will light up the sea for a wide area without betraying the exact location of the ship projecting them.

A girl twenty years of age recently swam around Manhattan Island, forty miles, in less than sixteen hours. In 1915 another woman performed this feat in eleven hours and thirty-five minutes.

A Federal law protecting migratory birds is being observed so well that wild geese and other wild fowl are breeding in many places from which they were formerly driven by spring shooters. A Federal warden writes from South Dakota that never, even in the memory of old timers, has that section seen a spring flight of geese such as took place this year.

The large swing bridge across the Suez Canal is being dismantled and a tunnel will be built below the canal connecting the Egyptian railways and the new line in Palestine.

One million, eight hundred and eighty-three thousand homes in the United States have been broken up in the divorce courts in the last twenty years, and in six counties in the United States the divorces now exceed the marriages.

During the last ten years the number of women wage earners in the United States has increased fifty per cent.

A member of the lettuce family cultivated in Upper Egypt is a new source of edible oil. It can be grown with profit in the Sudan, the seeds yielding under pressure from 37 to 38 per cent oil. The oil is of a beautiful light yellow color, odorless, and is very suitable for the manufacture of soap and similar products.

Certain shoe stores are using the X-ray machine to determine when shoes fit and when they do not. The customer stands on a platform and by looking through the hood of the apparatus, views the X-ray image of the feet and shoes. Only a low power X-ray tube is used with ample protection for both customer and salesman.

The United States mint is coining silver dollars for the first time in seven years.

A deer recently appeared in the main street of Woonsocket, Rhode Island, and headed for the business section of the city. Leaping over the railing of a bridge she landed on the roof of a yarn mill, crashing through a skylight and falling nineteen feet into a dye vat filled with water. She was caught and taken to the country and released by a deputy game warden.

The most famous stepping stone of American history, Plymouth Rock, has been restored to the place where it rested when the Pilgrims set foot upon it. A decorative approach to the rock from Plymouth Harbor is under construction.

Spruce pine, from which satisfactory newsprint can be made at a cost much less than from other wood, grows on the mountains and foothills of the South in great quantities. During the annual convention of the Southern Newspaper Publishers Association, the editor of the Birmingham *Age-Herald* exhibited copies of his publication printed on paper made from this spruce pine cut near Warrior River, Alabama.

Owing to the high cost of timber in China, railway sleepers and electric transmission line poles are being made of reinforced concrete.

Wheeling, West Virginia, has women acting as railroad crossing flagmen.

Francisco Villa, an illiterate, has started schools to accommodate five hundred children. He has arranged with the Mexican Government to provide teachers.

A prison newspaper—*The Messenger*—with the "Golden Rule" as its motto, published and edited by prisoners at the South Dakota penitentiary, is the latest plan to make men, rather than ex-convicts, out of inmates.

A bolt of lightning from a clear sky killed a man in Brookfield, Illinois, while he was standing in front of his home. His wife, at a window, witnessed the tragedy.

Floating mines have been brought in from the Gulf of Finland, the charges removed and the fittings taken out. The mines are then converted into soup tourens by the Kronstadt refugees who are being fed by the American Red Cross in Finland.

Alaska's white population decreased 23.4 per cent between 1910 and 1920 according to the census bureau announcement.

It is said that the baby daughter of the Chinese minister in London spoke both Chinese and English when she was 18 months of age.

One of the most valuable historical discoveries made in recent times is the remarkable discovery of city records of the City of Mexico, dating back to the year 1524, in the basement of the municipal building at the capital. A portion of the basement which had been bricked in centuries ago contained complete daily records since January 1, of that year. Decrees of Spanish kings and Aztec relics were also found.

Six members of the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey will cut themselves off from civilization for four months to complete a survey of the Grand Canyon of the Colorado River never before attempted. Specially constructed boats containing sufficient supplies will be used.

In Alaska there are one hundred square miles which can be used for agricultural purposes.

The treasury department of the Mexican Federal Government has authorized the issuance of fifty million pesos in agrarian bonds. These bonds are to be used only to purchase arable land for distribution among the people of Mexico. The bonds are not to be sold but are to be exchanged with land owners for large tracts which are not now cultivated.

The jerkless train has arrived in Sweden. By employing anti-friction bearings, technically known as disk bearings, in place of the present journal bearings on passenger cars, the resistance at starting cars is so reduced that from ten to fifteen per cent of the pulling force required with journal bearings will cause the train to move.

Wireless telephones will soon be operating on all great transatlantic liners according to an American wireless expert, who predicts that all main staterooms will be equipped with regular desk telephones from which the passenger will be connected with his office telephone in London or New York just as he now gets his connection on land.

The Bois de Boulogne, one of the most beautiful parks in the world, is now considered one of the most unsafe for pedestrians because of the number of recent robberies by Apaches on that thoroughfare. There are only fifty guards for the two thousand acres of park.

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